

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 01086 190701Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 ACDA-07 SSM-03
DHA-02 EA-10 EB-08 /123 W
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R 181420Z AUG 77
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4671
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 1086

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, LY
SUBJ: QADHAFI'S LEADERSHIP IN POST "WAR" PERIOD

1. SUMMARY. LIBYAN MOOD REMAINS UPBEAT WHILE MOBILIZATION CONTINUES. QADHAFI APPEARS IN FIRM CONTROL AND MOVING BRISKLY ON DOMESTIC AND DIPLOMATIC FRONT. NEWS OF EXTENT OF LIBYAN CASUALTIES MAY DIM EUPHORIA. END SUMMARY.

2. THREE WEEKS AFTER BLOODYING ITS ARMED FORCES IN CLASH WITH EGYPT, LIBYAN MOOD REMAINS UPBEAT. HOWEVER, NEARLY FULL MOBILIZATION CONTINUES WHILE PRESS CONTINUES TO CLAIM
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PAGE 02 TRIPOL 01086 190701Z

TREMENDOUS VICTORY OVER EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT BUT REGRETTING HARM TO BROTHER EGYPTIAN PEOPLE.

3. ON DOMESTIC FRONT QADHAFI AND HIS LIEUTENANTS HAVE MAINTAINED A BRISK PACE OF ACTIVITY AND HIGH PUBLIC PROFILE. PRESS REPORTS FEATURE QADHAFI PRESIDING OVER TOP LEVELS OF LIBYAN GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE.

EX-PRIMIN MAJOR JALLUD IS REPORTED TO BE STUMPING CYRENAICA RE-EXPLAINING THE LIBYAN REVOLUTION AND POSSIBLY SNIFFING FOR DISSIDENTS IN THE REGION CLOSEST TO EGYPT'S BORDER. FORMER INTERIOR MINISTER HUMAYDI, AS COMMANDER OF THE PEOPLE'S MILITIA WHICH IS NOW FULLY MOBILIZED, IS, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, BUSY PUTTING THESE EMPORARY SOLDIERS INTO FIGHTING SHAPE. FORMER ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF MAJOR KHAROUBI LONG DORMANT HAS AGAIN SURFACED. HE IS REPORTED ACTIVE IN MILITARY MATTERS. ONLY ARMED FORCES COMMANDER IN CHIEF COL. ABU AL-QASIM YUNIS HAS RECEIVED LITTLE PUBLIC NOTICE. LEADER OF THE SEPTEMBER REVOLUTION AND SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE ARMED FORCES QADHAFI HAS BEEN FEATURED DAILY BY LOCAL PRESS AS RECEIVING FLOOD OF SUPPORTING TELEGRAMS AND VISITING FOREIGNERS. HEAVY TRAFFIC OF FOREIGN VISITORS (LARGELY AFRICAN BUT INCLUDING NORTH KOREAN DEPUTY PREMIER) HAS CONTINUED ALMOST UNINTERRUPTED. PALESTINIAN REJECTIONIST LEADERS JABRIL, HAWATMAH, AND REPRESENTATIVE OF GEORGE HABBASH ACCOMPANIED BY PERHAPS A THOUSAND LEBANON COMBAT-SEASONED FOLLOWERS ARE ALSO GRACING THE SCENE.

4. ON DIPLOMATIC FRONT LIBYA HAS BEEN MOVING WITH ALACRITY AND AGAILITY. FOREIGN SECRETARY TURAYKI ARRIVED IN FRANCE FOR SCHEDULED VISIT ALMOST SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THE STILL UNACKNOWLEDGED CEASE-CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TRIPOL 01086 190701Z

FIRE. SHORTLY THEREAFTER QADHAFI'S CHIEF AID, TAHA SHARIF BEN AMIR, AND INFORMATION SECRETARY ZUWAI ARRIVED IN TUNIS TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN IMPROVING LIBYAN-TUNISIAN RELATIONS. THIS VISIT WAS SOON REPAID BY TUNISIAN AGRICULTURE MINISTER BELKHODJA. AT THE SAME TIME THERE ARE REPORTS SUGGESTING QADHAFI IS MANEUVERING TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH SUDAN'S NUMEIRI WHICH, IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT OF SUCCESS, WOULD NO DOUBT CAUSE SOME PAIN TO EGYPT. THERE HAS ALSO BEEN INCREASED COMMUNICATION BETWEEN LIBYA AND ALGERIA FOLLOWING BOUMEDIENNE'S MEDIATION ROLE WITH INDICATIONS THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO LEADERS ARE IMPROVED. WHILE THE SOVIET UNION HAS MAINTAINED EXTREMELY LOW PROFILE LOCALLY SINCE FIGHTING, SUPPORT FROM MOSCOW AND WORSENING EGYPTIAN-SOVIET RELATIONS AND LIBYAN/SOVIET COOPERATION IN ETHIOPIA, SUGGEST LIBYA'S SOVIET CONNECTION PROBABLY STRENGTHENED. FINALLY, LIBYANS ARE EVEN ATTEMPTING TO KEEP LINES WITHUS OPEN AS INDICATED BY RECENT FOREIGN OFFICE DEMARCHE TO EMBASSY IN EARLY AUGUST EXPRESSING LIBYA'S CONTINUED HOPES FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH US AND STEPPED UP DIALOGUE.

5. THUS TO ALL APPEARANCES QADHAFI REMAINS FIRMLY IN CONTROL OF LIBYA'S DESTINY AND IS WITH REASONABLE SKILL CARRYING OUT ORCHESTRATED DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY. ONLY CLOUD ON HORIZON IS THAT CURRENT EUPHORIA MAY RAPIDLY FADE AS FULLER REPORTS OF LIBYAN CASUALTIES BECOME KNOWN. TO SOME EXTENT THESE REPORTS ARE ALREADY CIRCULATING AS OFFICERS ARE BEING GRANTED SHORT LEAVES. ANOTHER PRESSING PROBLEM FOR LIBYA IS THE HEAVY BURDEN OF CONTINUING MOBILIZATION PARTICULARLY DURING RMMADAN. EFFECTS OF INCREASED MANPOWER SHORTAGE ON LIBYAN ADMINISTRATION AND ECONOMY IS CLEARLY SHOWING IN FORM OF MORE THAN USUAL DEFICIENT GOVERNMENT SERVICES. SHOULD QADHAFI SOMEHOW STUMBLE, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 TRIPOL 01086 190701Z

WHICH SEEMS UNLIKELY, SUCCESSOR WE JUDGE WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY COME FROM THE ARMED FORCES. HOWEVER, DUE TO QADHAFI'S POLICY OF CONSTANTLY CHANGING KEY COMMANDERS TO ASSURE LOYALTY AND PREVENT CONSPIRACIES, SUCCESSOR MIGHT NOT EMERGE WITHOUT CONSIDERABLE STRUGGLE.
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